



USA - AUSTRALIA



Free Trade Agreement

THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

A strong and growing Australian economy provides new opportunities for American exports.

- Fastest growing developed economy for the past five years, with 3.8 per cent GDP growth in 2002.
- 3.0 per cent forecast for 2003.
- 15th largest economy in the world, and 4th largest in Asia.
- Ranked 7th in the world on GDP per capita, up from 15th in 1990.
- Productivity gains in the 1990s outstripped the US.
- Impressive record of policy reform - open markets, deregulation of key sectors, tax and labour market reforms.
- Second only to the US in the 2001 'e-readiness' survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit. One of the six fastest growing 'new economies' by the OECD.
- Highly skilled, multilingual workforce with 25 per cent of people speaking a language other than English at home.
- Australia has high standards for environmental protection and labour rights.
- Transparent, highly developed and effective systems of government and corporate regulation.

US - Australian trade

- US is Australia's second-largest trading partner with two-way trade of US\$28 billion.
- US merchandise trade surplus with Australia: US\$8.0 billion.
- Australia is 13th largest export market for US.
- US is largest source of foreign investment in Australia: US\$137 billion.
- US is largest recipient of Australian investment overseas: \$US109 billion.
- Australian companies provide jobs for 83,000 American workers.
- Australia's managed funds pool is 7th largest in the world, and the largest in Asia Pacific outside of Japan.
- US is largest source of Australian merchandise and services imports.
- US accounts for 20 per cent of Australian services imports.

Australia - a free trade nation

- An FTA with Australia will contribute to the momentum for global trade liberalization. Both countries are strong advocates for free trade.
- Australia has negotiated an FTA with Singapore, and discussions are underway with Thailand.
- Closer Economic Relations (CER) with New Zealand since 1983.
- AFTA-CER Closer Economic Partnership with ASEAN and New Zealand.
- Key participant in APEC.
- Leader of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting nations.
- Australia sponsored an informal ministerial meeting of WTO countries to take the Doha round forward.
- Australian and American agricultural producers have common interests in opening world markets.

